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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6886

BILL NUMBER: HB 1458

NOTE PREPARED: Jan 4, 2007

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: School Safety and Teacher Contracts.

FIRST AUTHOR: Rep. Porter

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

FUNDS AFFECTED: X **GENERAL**
DEDICATED
FEDERAL

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill requires a school corporation to obtain a national criminal history background check for each newly hired teacher at the school corporation's expense. The bill requires a newly hired teacher to provide written consent and a set of fingerprints for the background check. The bill also provides that a temporary teacher's contract must be used only in certain instances. It requires each school to adopt a comprehensive school safety plan as a component of the school's improvement plan.

Effective Date: July 1, 2007.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *Summary:* This bill requires school corporations to modify their criminal history policies to include a requirement mandating all individuals hired for certificated employment to complete a national criminal history background check. This provision would increase revenue deposited into the General Fund from criminal history background check fees by an indeterminable amount. The provision would also increase expenditures for school corporations who would be responsible for all costs associated with obtaining a national criminal history background check.

Indiana State Police: As proposed, the Indiana State Police (ISP) would experience an increase in workload.

Background Information:

A Limited Criminal History Background Check means information with respect to any arrest or criminal charge, which must include: (1) a disposition; and (2) a photograph of the person who is the subject of the limited criminal history, if a photograph is available. The term includes information about any arrest or criminal charge that occurred less than one year before the date of a request even if no disposition has been

entered. A limited criminal history background check is obtained through the Indiana State Police (ISP).

A National Criminal History Background Check means the criminal history record system maintained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation based on fingerprint identification or any other method of positive identification. A national criminal history background check is also obtained through the ISP.

Explanation of State Revenues: *Mandate that Certificated Hires Complete a National Criminal History Background Check* - This bill requires school corporations to modify their criminal history policies to include a requirement mandating all individuals hired for certificated employment to complete a national criminal history background check. Under current law, school corporations are required to adopt a policy concerning criminal history information which pertains to individuals hired for employment. The policy may require certificated hire to obtain a limited criminal history check or national criminal history background check before or not later than three months after the individual's employment.

Fiscal Impact: Background check policies vary by school corporation; some request limited criminal history and/or national criminal history background check information, while others do not. In addition, school corporations are exempt from fees for limited criminal history checks. However, if the hire requests the check, a fee will be charged. Whether the school corporation requests the background check or the hire requests the check varies by school corporation as well. The number of new hires paying fees for background checks is unknown. Fees for limited criminal history background checks are as follows: \$16 for persons who do not subscribe to AccessIndiana, \$15 for AccessIndiana subscribers, or \$7 by mail. A portion of the fees, \$7, is deposited into the state General Fund; the remaining \$8 or \$9.32 is deposited into the Indiana Office of Technology (IOT) Portal fund. The IOT reports that the Portal Fund is used to maintain and modify AccessIndiana webpages.

National criminal history background checks cost a total of \$39, \$24 of which is given to the federal government, and the remaining \$15 is deposited into the state General Fund.

| | Current | As Proposed |
|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Type of Check and Requirement | Depending on school corporation or charter school policy, <u>may</u> be required to submit a limited or national criminal history check for certificated hires. | Would be required to collect national criminal history check for all certificated hires. |
| Fee | <u>Limited:</u> \$16 for persons who do not subscribe to AccessIndiana, \$15 for AccessIndiana subscribers, and \$7 by mail; fee is waived for school corporations; or <u>National:</u> \$39; \$15 of which is deposited into the state General Fund, \$24 is forwarded to the federal government. | \$39; \$15 of which is deposited into the state General Fund, \$24 is forwarded to the federal government |
| Fee Responsibility | School corporation may require the certificated hire to pay fees required for a limited criminal history background check. | School corporation or charter school is responsible for all costs associated with obtaining a national criminal history background check. |

Under this provision of the bill, revenue deposited into the General Fund from fees would likely increase.

Actual increases would be dependent on the number of school corporations currently requiring limited criminal history checks for certificated hires and the fee paid for those checks (would range between \$0 for school corporations and \$16 for individuals requesting the information online without an AccessIndiana subscription), and the number of certificated hires to school corporations who would be required under the bill to submit a national criminal history check who are not currently doing so (\$15 of the fee would be deposited into the state General Fund).

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Modification of Criminal History Check Policy:* School corporations would be required to modify their current policy pertaining to criminal history checks for certificated hires. School corporations should be able to accomplish this within their current workload.

Criminal History Check Fees: As proposed, school corporations are responsible for all costs associated with obtaining a national criminal history background check for certificated hires and would experience an increase in expenditures. Actual increases are dependent on the number of certificated hires who are currently not required to obtain a national criminal history background check. During the 2005-2006 school year, a total of 6,188 persons were hired as new certificated employees. Increases in expenditures would range between \$0 and \$241,332 annually.

Temporary Teacher Contracts: The current law states that a temporary teacher's contract shall be used only for a teacher to replace a teacher who has been given a leave of absence for:

- (1) engaging in defense service or in service auxiliary to defense service;
- (2) professional study or advancement;
- (3) exchange teaching;
- (4) extended disability to which a licensed physician has attested; or
- (5) serving in the General Assembly.

The bill could expand the use of temporary teachers' contracts. The bill might reduce school teacher costs if temporary contracts could be used instead of a regular contracts in certain circumstances. The amount of the saving is unknown.

Explanation of Local Revenues: *Fingerprint Card Fees:* Under the bill, certificated school corporation hires would need to submit a fingerprint card to complete a national criminal history background check. If the card is obtained through an ISP post, of which there are 18 statewide, it is free. If it is obtained from a local law enforcement agency, fees vary. Fees collected from fingerprint cards are used by the local police department which collects the fee. Actual use of the fees vary by department.

State Agencies Affected: Indiana State Police; Department of Education; Indiana Office of Technology.

Local Agencies Affected: Local school corporations and townships; charter schools; local law enforcement agencies.

Information Sources: Chris Sheets, Indiana State Police; Chris Cotterill, Indiana office of Technology; Sherry Beck, Indiana State Police; Fred Sargeson, AccessIndiana; Professional Standards Board, Department of Education; Doug Shelton, Indiana State Police.

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